



**DuPont Dow elastomers**

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**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

Return Receipt Requested

December 2, 1996

Charles B. Auer (7405)  
Director, Chemical Control Division  
Office of Prevention, Pesticides,  
and Toxic Substances  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
E513 Waterside Mall  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20460



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**Contains No CBI**

Dear Mr. Auer:

**PROPOSED TEST RULE ON HAPS - CHLOROPRENE**  
**61 FEDERAL REGISTER 124 (JUNE 26, 1996)**  
**OPPTS-42187A; FRL-4869-1**

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD**  
**REQUEST FOR MEETING**

DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. plans to submit comments on the above-referenced proposed Hazardous Air Pollutants test rule for chloroprene. In those comments, DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. will challenge EPA's conclusions that additional toxicology testing is required based on the 4(a)(1)(A)(i) and 4(a)(1)(B)(i) findings of significant human exposure and unreasonable risk to health.

DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. maintains that the existing database for chloroprene is sufficient to assess its hazards and can be used to define a reference concentration (RfC). However, there are three additional National Toxicology Program (NTP) sponsored studies that may impact the final risk assessment: two involve cancer bioassays in rats and mice(1) and the other describes experimental mutagenicity assessments using P53 heterozygous transgenic mice(2). Based upon conversations with NTP personnel in August 1996, the results of the cancer bioassays are not expected until at least December 11, 1996 and the in-life phase of the transgenics study will not be completed until about January 1997; timing for availability of final

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reports is uncertain. In addition, it has not been possible to obtain complete copies of relevant NTP (e.g., neurotoxicity and 90-day inhalation) reports given NTP policy not to release reports until all data have been peer reviewed. To ensure these key studies are evaluated and considered before the proposed rule is finalized, DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. requests that the comment period on chloroprene be extended until such time as the results from these studies become available and can be reviewed by its scientists.

In the event that EPA decides not to grant the requested extension of time, and because DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. believes that the studies mentioned herein (two of which are referenced by EPA in the public information docket) could impact the final risk assessment, DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. requests that it be permitted to submit additional comments on the proposed chloroprene test rule after it has reviewed the studies. DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. further requests that EPA agree to consider such additional comments before finalizing the proposed rule and to include them in the official record.

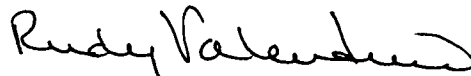
While acknowledging the limited resources of EPA to address chemical specific issues, as was discussed over the phone with Mr. Reiley, it is still believed that it would be beneficial for representatives of DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. to meet with EPA prior to the end of the comment period to discuss both the existing and pending data on chloroprene and options in view of that data. It is understood that some EPA personnel involved in the chloroprene test rule are located at Research Triangle Park. DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. has no objection to a meeting wherein EPA personnel located outside of Washington are included via conference call.

If EPA cannot grant an extension of the comment period, it is proposed that a meeting be held prior to January 31, 1997; specifically, **during the week of January 13**. If that timing is not feasible for EPA, we are open to meeting after the close of the comment period, provided that DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C. is permitted to submit, for consideration and for the record, any additional comments on issues that arise as a result of that meeting or from the availability of new data in the interim. Once EPA identifies a meeting date, a list of attendees for DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C., along with a proposed agenda, will be forwarded to EPA.

I will contact Mr. Reiley or you within the next few days to discuss this matter further. In addition, I may be contacted directly at the following address and phone number:

Haskell Laboratory for Toxicology and Industrial Medicine  
P.O. Box 50  
Elkton Road  
Newark, Delaware 19714  
(302) 366-5315

Very truly yours,



Dr. Rudolph Valentine, Ph.D., D.A.B.T.  
Senior Research Toxicologist  
Consultant for DuPont Dow Elastomers L.L.C.

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Footnotes:

- (1) From the EPA information docket for OPPTS-42187A; FRL-4869-1; cited as the Summary Tables on the Health Effects Data for Hazardous Air Pollutants prepared by Syracuse Research Corporation, August 1995.
- (2) Cited from NTP internet home page.

cc: Mr. Robert Reiley  
Project Manager  
Chemical Testing Division  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
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Public Docket US OPPTS-42187A; FRL-4869-1  
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